

Farm Free or Die & The West is Burning - What's Next

To learn more about the films, visit: <https://www.amresproject.org/farm-free-or-die> or <https://www.westisburning.org/>

Climate Change and the Agricultural System

The combination of climate change and conventional farming methods is crippling farmers' abilities to make ends meet and compromising our ability to feed future generations. Conventional agriculture uses monocropping, using large swaths of land to farm cash crops repeatedly. Monocropping extracts nutrients from soil which leads farmers to rely on fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to grow. A decline in soil health also impacts the land's resilience to extreme weather events that are growing more common with climate change.

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture is an umbrella term that refers to farming practices that improve and sustain soils. With healthy soil, we can farm more food on less land, empower small growers, and shrink our reliance on global supply chains. It is an adaptation to the trials facing farmers due to climate change.

Understanding Forest Fires and Fire Management

Wildfires are becoming more intense with higher temperatures and dryer climates that extend the fire season. We need to reassess our approach to wildfire prevention and forest management. Some forests are dry and fire adapted, meaning that when they are left alone they regularly have small burns that reduce fuel levels and prevent megafires. Restoring these natural properties through science based extraction, prescribed fire, and grazing can be fire mitigation practices.

What you can do to support Sustainable Agriculture

- Source your groceries from local farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) systems.
 - Check out [Knapp Ranch's CSA program](#) which provides weekly deliveries of fresh produce and other goodies during the summer season (get on the list now for 2023!)
- Support Colorado's efforts to move towards a regenerative agriculture system
 - Non-profits like 350Colorado localize this issue and give great resources on initiatives happening in our state, check out their [Local Food and Regenerative Agriculture Hub](#)
 - Get informed on the 2023 Farm Bill and notify your representatives of the changes you wish to see
 - Don't know where to start? We have you covered! Check out the [Walking Mountains Community Guide to Civic Engagement](#) to familiarize yourself with the civic process!

What You Can Do About Wildfires

- Educate yourself on wildfire locations, hazard areas and forest health by exploring interactive maps! With the help of Geoinformatic systems (GIS) we can layer quantitative and qualitative data atop a geographical area to expose areas in need of management or fire prevention regulation.
 - [Eagle County Wildfire Map](#), a county level look at fire shed and buffer levels
 - At the state level, The Colorado State Forest Service explore the [Wildfire Risk Public Viewer](#) and its many tools to play around with including over laying large fire boundaries over time and wildfire intensity
- Stay up to date on steps the Colorado legislature is taking to mitigate wildfires, bolster recovery afterwards, and to better adapt our forests to climate change
 - This [annual report](#) on the forest health in Colorado by the CSFS contains information on policy and action
 - View Eagle Counties wildfire prevention measures [here](#) and reach out to Eagle County Sustainable Communities with questions or feedback.